## NOWALSKY & GOTHARD

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GRANTED

DEC 182017

Competition Policy Division Wireline Competition Bureau

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Effective for sixty (60) days

Via ECFS

LEON L. NOWALSKY

EDWARD P. GOTHARD

November 28, 2017

Marlene Dortch, Secretary Wireline Competition Bureau

Federal Communications Commission Washington, DC

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RE:

WC Docket 17-309

Request for Special Temporary Authority for

U.S. Connect, LLC - Revised

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 63.01 through 63.04 of the Commission's rules, U.S. Connect, LLC. ("US Connect"), through undersigned counsel, hereby requests Special Temporary Authority ("STA") from the Bureau for a period of 60 days to allow it to continue to operate while the pending 214 Domestic Transfer of Control application on behalf of U.S. Connect, LLC, Great Wireless, LLC, Patricia Gabrysiak, and Porter USA Enterprises, Inc. is completed.

Licensee is a non-dominant telecommunications carrier holding blanket domestic Section 214 authorization from the Commission to provide interstate telecommunications services under Section 63.01 of the Commission's Rules.

US Connect, the holder of the 214 Domestic/International authority, seeks Commission approval of a transaction which resulted in a transfer of assets which did not received prior FCC approval.

Additional details regarding the application are enclosed as Attachment 1.

Applicants acknowledge that a grant of this request for Special Temporary Authority will not prejudice any action that the Commission may take on the Application. Applicant further acknowledges that Special Temporary Authority can be revoked by the Commission on its own motion without a hearing, and that the granting of Special Temporary Authority and the underlying Application will not preclude enforcement action.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Leu Navelsky Leon Nowalsky

Attachment

# REASONS FOR REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

This is a request for Special Temporary Authority ("STA"), submitted pursuant to Section 63.03 and 63.04 of the Commission's rules, seeking temporary authority to allow U.S. Connect, LLC ("US Connect") to operate while the pending Domestic 214 Transfer of Control application, filed concurrently herewith, is completed. US Connect respectfully requests 60 days temporary authority while the Domestic 214 Application is reviewed.

US Connect, the holder of the 214 domestic authority, seeks Commission approval of a transaction which resulted in an initial change in the ownership of US Connect by virtue of a Membership Interest purchase in 2016 involving its corporate parent, Great Wireless, LLC which did not receive prior FCC approval. US Connect is a Georgia limited liability company headquartered in Dallas, Texas, and holds blanket section 214 authority to provide domestic telecommunications services, and operates as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") in the states of Arkansas, Maryland and West Virginia.

The transaction took place at the corporate parent level and the company apologies for failing to request approval for the membership interest change, and wishes to make full disclosure of all substantive and non-substantive changes which have occurred involving US Connect.

US Connect was formed as a limited liability company in the State of Georgia in January, 2011.

A Grant of Special Temporary Authority Will Serve the Public Interest. This STA has been filed at the direction of the Commission staff to accompany the filing of the Transfer of Control of the Membership Interests in U.S. Connect LLC's corporate parent, Great Wireless. LLC from Suleman Bhimani to Porter USA Enterprises, Inc. A grant of the STA is needed to allow US Connect to continue to operate its telecommunications network pending Commission action on the 214 Application. US Connect's Domestic 214 license authorized US Connect to provide interstate resale service within the United States. US Connect is an active domestic carrier, presently providing Eligible Telecommunications Carrier services in the states of Arkansas, Maryland and West Virginia. As such, the public interest will be served by granting this STA request to allow uninterrupted provision of US Connect's services. In further support of this request, the Commission is respectfully requested to consider that US Connect has acted in good faith to rectify its failure to file for approval of the transfers of control listed herein, admitting its failure to comply with Commission rules, and seeking approval of the Application.

Steps Taken by US Connect to Ensure Future Compliance with FCC rules. US Connect has taken steps to ensure future compliance with Commission rules. <sup>1</sup>/ To ensure future compliance

<sup>1</sup> US Connect previously utilized the services of Visi Consulting to oversee its compliance. However, Visi unexpectedly ceased operating and US Connect was not provided with timely notice of this event.

with FCC rules, US Connect will consult with Communications counsel on a regular basis as necessary to remain advised and up to date on Commission regulatory requirements affecting its operations. In addition, US Connect will maintain a current copy of Part 63 of the Commission's rules at its headquarters in Dallas, Texas, and has engaged Patrick Hardy, Consultant, to oversee compliance with FCC rules and regulations and coordination with communications counsel.

Requested Duration for Special Temporary Authority. US Connect requests 60 days temporary authority while the 214 Application is pending. The past ownership interests in US Connect were held by United States and Canadian citizens. After the transaction which is the subject of this transfer application, the ownership interest in US Connect will be held solely by a US citizen.

Acknowledgment. Applicants acknowledge that a grant of this request for Special Temporary Authority will not prejudice any action that the Commission may take on the Application. Applicant further acknowledges that Special Temporary Authority can be revoked by the Commission on its own motion without a hearing, and that the granting of Special Temporary Authority and the underlying Application will not preclude enforcement action.

State of Tayks
County of Dallay

#### VERIFICATION

I, Suleman Bhimani, am the Manager of Great Wireless, LLC and am authorized to make this verification on its behalf. The statements made in the foregoing Application are true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters which are therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

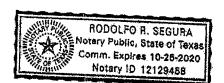
By:

Suleman Bhimani, Manager Great Wireless, LLC

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of <u>October</u>, 2017

Notary Public/

My commission expires 10/75/2020



State of Texas

County of Harris

#### **VERIFICATION**

I, Obaid Uddin, am the President of Porter USA Enterprises, Inc. and am authorized to make this verification on its behalf. The statements made in the foregoing Application are true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters which are therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

By:

Obaid Uddin, President
Porter USA Enterprises, Inc.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \( \frac{1}{2} \) day of \( \frac{1}{2} \) fe \( \frac{1}{2} \) \( \frac{1}{2} \) 2017

Notary Public

My commission expires 8 34 1

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State of Takay

County of Dullay

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By:

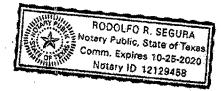
Suleman Bhimani, Manager Great Wireless, LLC

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of NOULUBY , 2017

iyotary Public

My commission expires

10/25/20re



State of TEXAS

County of HARAIS

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By:

Obaid Uddin, President Porter USA Enterprises, Inc.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21 day of NOVEMBER, 2017

Notary Public

My commission expires 12.27.2021



THERESE COLE
My Notary ID # 5180877
Extires December 27, 2021